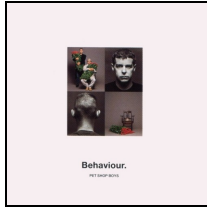


Pet Shop Boys

Behaviour (1990)



Label | Parlophone
Producer | Harold Faltermeyer
Art Direction | Mark Farrow
Nationality | UK
Running Time | 49:04

Much to their frustration. Pet Shop Boys had already used the title *Introspective* on their previous studio outing. If any record of theirs ever deserved that name, it is surely this brooding and haunted affair. Neil Tennant commented that with the world in its precarious state, he had wanted to present music that reflected personal turmoil amid global uncertainty. And after recent collaborations with Liza Minnelli, Dusty Springfield and Electronic the duo were brimming with ideas.

Having vowed never to let guitars on board, it is interesting to hear the pair allow former Smiths man Johnny Marr to drip his golden plectrum over certain tracks. There is also orchestration courtesy of Angelo Badalamenti, who had made his name through movie work with David Lynch. From the outset the mood is wistful and sober. Tennant casts a nostalgic eye back to adolescence on "Being Boring" and "This Must Be The Place I Waited Years To Leave." There is a crunching Chris Lowe synth riff on UK hit single "So Hard" and a sneer at rock's political statesmen via "How Can You Expect To Be Taken Seriously?."

But melancholia dominates, with the gorgeous "My October Symphony" and "Only The Wind" being two songs to dream with by a crackling fireside. And the heavenly "The End Of The World" finds Tennant urging us to heed prophecies of extinction. It is all cosy yet disturbing, symphonic yet somehow sparse. Maybe UK rock magazine *Sounds* got it right by proclaiming *Behaviour* "about as good as pop music gets" **GT**